

technical aspects of blasting operations and State and Federal laws governing the storage, transportation and use of explosives, as provided in §850.14 of this chapter.

(2) The examination at a minimum shall cover the topics specified in §850.13(b) of this chapter, and shall include:

- (i) Objective questions;
- (ii) Blasting log problems; and
- (iii) Initiation system and delay sequence problems.

(c) *Reexamination.* (1) Any person who fails the examination may apply to OSM for reexamination by submitting a new application, including the prescribed fee, but no person may take the examination more than 2 times in any 12-month period.

(2) Any person who fails the examination and submits a new application within 2 years of completing training as provided in §955.12(a) need not repeat, or resubmit evidence of having completed, training.

(d) *Failure to attend.* Except where the applicant shows and OSM finds good cause, OSM may reject the pending application of any applicant who fails to take the examination after OSM has granted his or her request for admission.

§955.15 Certification.

(a) *Processing of application.* (1) Upon receiving an application for an OSM blaster certificate OSM shall:

- (i) Notify the applicant of the receipt of, and of any deficiency in, the application.
- (ii) Where applicable, notify the applicant that his or her request for admission to a scheduled examination either is granted or denied.

(2) When OSM determines that an applicant has failed to qualify for an OSM blaster certificate, OSM shall reject his or her application and notify him or her accordingly.

(b) *Grant of certificate.* OSM shall:

(1) Issue or reissue an OSM blaster certificate to any qualified applicant who completes the applicable training, passes the examination, and is found by OSM to be competent and to have the necessary knowledge and experience to accept responsibility for blasting operations;

(2) Renew one time the issued or reissued OSM blaster certificate of any qualified applicant;

(3) Replace the OSM blaster certificate of any qualified applicant who presents satisfactory evidence that his or her certificate was lost or destroyed;

(4) Grant an OSM blaster certificate through reciprocity as provided in §955.16; or

(5) Reinstate a suspended, or reissue a revoked OSM blaster certificate as provided in §955.17(e).

(c) *Term of certificate.* OSM shall grant an OSM blaster certificate for a term to expire as follows:

- (1) Issuance—3 years after issue date;
- (2) Renewal—3 years after expiration date of applicant's current or expired certificate;

(3) Reissuance—3 years after expiration date of applicant's current or expired certificate;

(4) Replacement—same expiration date as replaced certificate; or

(5) Reciprocity—60 days after expiration date of corresponding State certificate.

(d) *Limits on renewal.* (1) OSM shall not renew an OSM blaster certificate more than 1 time. A blaster who seeks to extend a renewed certificate may apply to OSM for certificate reissuance.

(2) OSM shall not renew an OSM blaster certificate that expired more than 1 year prior to the date of an application for renewal. An applicant who desires to extend a certificate that expired more than 1 year prior to the date of his or her application may apply to OSM for certificate reissuance.

(e) *Temporary certificate.* Upon request of an applicant who demonstrates that his or her current OSM blaster certificate is about to expire, or expired within 30 days prior to the date of his or her application, for reasons beyond his or her control, OSM may issue a non-renewable temporary OSM blaster certificate for a maximum term of 90 days.

(f) *Conditions of certification.* Any person who holds an OSM blaster certificate shall comply with the conditions specified in §§850.15 (d) and (e) of this chapter.

(g) *Change of address.* Any person who holds an OSM blaster certificate shall

notify OSM in writing within 30 days of any change in his or her address.

§ 955.16 Reciprocity.

(a) *Grant of certificate.* OSM shall grant an OSM blaster certificate through reciprocity to any qualified applicant who demonstrates that he or she, and whom OSM finds, holds a current State blaster certificate granted by a State regulatory authority under an OSM-approved State blaster certification program. An applicant for a certificate through reciprocity need not otherwise demonstrate that he or she meets the age, experience, knowledge, competence, training or examination requirements of this part.

(b) *Subsequent certificate.* (1) Any person who holds an OSM blaster certificate granted through reciprocity may qualify for a subsequent certificate either through reciprocity or by meeting directly the applicable requirements of this part for certificate issuance, renewal or reissuance.

(2) OSM shall not recognize a certificate granted through reciprocity as qualifying an applicant for certificate issuance, renewal or reissuance.

§ 955.17 Suspension and revocation.

(a) *Cause, nature and duration.* (1) OSM may, and upon a finding of willful conduct of the blaster OSM shall, suspend for a definite or indefinite period, revoke or take other necessary action on the certificate of an OSM-certified blaster for any of the reasons specified in § 850.15(b) of this chapter.

(2) Where OSM has reliable information which demonstrates that the storage, transportation or use of explosives by an OSM-certified blaster is likely to threaten public safety or the environment, OSM shall suspend his or her certificate as soon as is practicable.

(3) OSM shall make the nature and duration of a suspension, revocation or other action under this section commensurate with the cause of the action and what the person whose certificate is subjected to the action does to correct it.

(b) *Notice and hearing.* When practicable, OSM shall give a certificate holder written notice and an opportunity for an informal hearing prior to suspending, revoking or taking other

action on his or her OSM blaster certificate. OSM shall limit any action taken without such notice and opportunity to a temporary suspension for a maximum term of 90 days pending a decision on a final suspension, revocation or other action after such notice and opportunity have been provided.

(c) *Decision and appeal.* By certified mail within 30 days after giving written notice and an opportunity for an informal hearing, OSM shall notify the certificate holder in writing of its final decision on his or her OSM blaster certificate, including the reasons for any suspension, revocation or other action. If the certificate was granted through reciprocity, OSM shall notify the State regulatory authority of its action. In any decision suspending, revoking or taking other action on an OSM blaster certificate, OSM shall grant to the certificate holder the right of appeal to the Department of the Interior Board of Land Appeals under 43 CFR 4.1280 to 4.1286.

(d) *Surrender of certificate.* Upon receiving written notice that his or her OSM blaster certificate was suspended, revoked or subjected to other action, a certificate holder immediately shall surrender the certificate to OSM in the manner specified in the notice.

(e) *Reinstatement and reissuance.* (1) OSM shall reinstate a suspended OSM blaster certificate by returning the certificate to the former certificate holder with notice of reinstatement when:

(i) The term of a definite suspension expires; or

(ii) The former certificate holder demonstrates, and OSM finds, that the cause of an indefinite suspension has been corrected.

(2) OSM shall reissue an OSM blaster certificate to an applicant whose certificate was revoked if his or her application demonstrates, and OSM finds, that:

(i) The cause of the revocation has been corrected; and

(ii) The applicant meets all other applicable requirements of this part.

(f) *Conformance with State action.* OSM shall suspend, revoke or take other commensurate action on an OSM blaster certificate granted through reciprocity if the State regulatory authority suspends, revokes or takes other